

London, November 11. 1701.

A

# LETTER

Sent to a  
Gentleman in Gloucester shire,  
About Electing a  
NEW PARLIAMENT.

SIR,

**T**HE Parliament is dissolv'd ; and it may be presum'd, that the King by this Act of *dissolving* them, does plainly tell the Nation, That tho' he was for some Reasons prevailed with to give the *Commons* the Complement of Thanks at the end of the last *Session*, yet His Majesty does not so well approve of their *Temper*, *Inclinations* or *Behaviour*, as to think it safe to trust the same Gentlemen any more at a time when our *Religion*, and *Liberties*, nay, perhaps the very *Being* of *England*, and *Fate* of *Europe*, lye at Stake.

The Account you have heard of the *French* and *Spanish Agents* entertaining at Supper *Three Members*, who were forward and Zealous Promoters of the Measures taken by the late *H-- of Commons*, (and who after the common Discourse of *French Money* being distributed among *Parliament-Men*, should have been more Cautious than to keep such *Company*) shews plainly, that the *French King* and *Pretended Prince of Wales* had too great an Interest among some Men then intrusted by the Nation : And it is visible, that the Delays and Disputes started, and kept up last Winter for By-Ends of Particular Men, did manifestly tend to the Service of *France* ; and to make us lose some Allies, who were ready to Enter into proper Measures with us for our Mutual Security. For it was our *dilatory Trifling* that lost *Portugal*, and some of the Princes of the Empire ; who, whilst we were amusing our selves about *Impeachments*, were gain'd by *France*.

If the *Parliament*, which will now be chosen, should consist of the *same Persons*, or of *Men of the same Temper* with the former *Parliament*, it will be impossible to perfect or support that *Alliance* which is forming for the *Security* of *England* and *Europe* against the Power

of

of France : That King is now exerting his last and utmost Force, to make himself what he has a long time aim'd at----- Universal Monarch of Europe : And, by the Union of the Spanish Crown, is now in a fairer way than ever of compassing his Ambitious Designs.

The wisest and most discerning Part of Mankind are fully perswaded, that the preventing these Designs depends upon the next Sessions of Parliament ; and that their Good or Ill Behaviour will one way or other decide the Fate of Europe.

If the H--- of Commons happen to consist of Wise and Honest Men, who laying aside Private Animosities and Disputes, shall apply themselves to secure the Publick in this dangerous Conjunction, ---the Ballance (and perhaps quickly the Peace) of Europe will be restored, our Trade will be secured, and France, whose Treasure is exhausted by Bribing his Neighbours, will easily be forced to submit to Reason.

But if this next H--- of Commons should again fall into Disputes about Things which perhaps are altogether Unnecessary, (or at least are so in a time of Danger) and shall by Unreasonable Impeachments, and Unreasonable Imprisonments, Trifle, Delay, and Neglect the Nation's Security, as last Winter, —— Venice, and all the lesser Princes of Italy, and of the Empire, will by Submission, make their Peace with France, Europe will be Enslaved, and England's best Hopes will in being a Province, govern'd by the pretended Prince of Wales, whilst France Reigns Sovereign Commander of our Lands, our Trade, our Purse, and our Religion. Consider then how great a Weight depends upon the Elections you shall now make.

In some Times and Cases one happy Error may be remedied by future better Conduct ; but if you happen to be deceived in this next Election, (which I pray God prevent) Destruction and Ruin, I fear, attend too near, to allow us any new Expedient.

Germany, Holland, the best part of Italy, and of Europe, do now with stretched out Arms, and repeated Intreaties, beseech you will in this Critical Time be Wise for Them, and for your Selves : And all such Englishmen, as love the Government, and their Country, do join in Prayers to Almighty God, that he will make you Wise in your New Choice.

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